

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 00346 101453Z

41

ACTION SY-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SCCT-01 A-01 OPR-01 PER-01 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 PC-01 EB-07 FAA-00 DOTE-00 PRS-01

NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 SCS-03

CCO-00 FBO-02 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NIC-01 SP-02 OCE-00

PA-01 USSS-00 SCA-01 OMB-01 /080 W

----- 119933

R 101325Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2608

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 0346

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION ASSESSMENT: ASMARA

FOR A/SY/FO

1. RSO NOT PLANNING SPECIAL TRIP TO ASMARA AT THIS TIME UNLESS SITUATION WORSENS OR HEADQUARTERS DESIRES CONTRARY. REASONS NO TRAVEL: RSO CONDUCTED COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY AMCONGEN AND USIS NOVEMBER 18-20, 1974; EXTENSIVE SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS WERE MADE AT TIME OF SURVEY, WITH WRITTEN LIST POUCHED TO CONGEN SHERRY ON NOVEMBER 22, 1974; RSO RECEIVED WRITTEN REPLY DECEMBER 23, 1974 TO RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PSO STATING MEASURES CONSIDERED MOST URGENT BY RSO WERE ALREADY BEING IMPLEMENTED; RSO REMAINS IN DAILY TELEPHONE AND CABLE CONTACT WITH PSO; AND DEPUTY PRINCIPAL OFFICER PERRY HAS BEEN ASSURED OF INCREASED LOCAL POLICE PROTECTION FOR CONGEN, USIS AND OTHER USG INSTALLATIONS, ASMARA BY POLICE AUTHORITIES.

2. FOLLOWING IS RSO'S ASSESSMENT OF SECURITY SITUATION ASMARA AND SUMMARY OF SPECIAL SECURITY MEASURES IN EFFECT TO INSURE PERSONNEL AND INSTALLATION SECURITY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ADDIS 00346 101453Z

3. SITUATION AS OF JANUARY 10, 1975.

CURRENT SITUATION ASMARA REMAINS UNCERTAIN. MOST RECENT UP-SURGE IN MILITARY/INSURGENT ACTIVITY, CULMINATING IN GRENADING OF USIS LIBRARY 8 JANUARY 1975, BEGAN WITH 22 DECEMBER 1974 BOMBINGS OF TWO (2) LOCAL BARS FREQUENTED BY MILITARY TROOPS WHICH CAUSED DEATH OF APPROXIMATELY 4 TO 16, 24 TO 60 WOUNDED. ERITREAN LIBERATION FORCE (ELF) INSURGENTS SUPPOSEDLY TO BLAME; POSSIBLY POPULAR LIBERATION FRONT (PLF) ACCORDING TO SOME SOURCES. ASSASSINATIONS, SUPPOSEDLY PERPETRATED BY ETHIOPIAN ARMY COMMANDO TEAMS, OCCURRED 23, 25, AND 26 DECEMBER IN APPARENT REPRISAL FOR BOMBINGS. EMBASSY AND CONSULATE SOURCES STATE POSSIBLY AS MANY AS TWENTY (20) CIVILIANS KILLED, IN MOST CASES INDISCRIMINATELY. METHODS OF ASSASSINATION--WIRE GARROT AND GUN FIRE.

EVENING 29 DECEMBER, AMERICAN, COLLINS INTERNATIONAL SERVICE COMPANY (CISCO) EMPLOYEE HALTED BY BURST OF GUNFIRE AT ROAD BLOCK BY ARMY TROOPS. AFTER IDENTIFICATION, ALLOWED TO PROCEED UNHARMED, REPEAT UNHARMED. AT 1900 HOURS LOCAL, 8 JANUARY 1975 THREE GRENADES (MAAG ORDINANCE PERSONNEL IDENTIFIED FRAGMENTS AS CHICOM) (FRAGMENTS WILL BE POUCHED TO HEADQUARTERS SHORTLY.) WERE THROWN THROUGH DOUBLE GLASS DOORS OF USIS LIBRARY FOLLOWING BURST OF GUNFIRE BY TWO UNKNOWN INDIVIDUALS. NO AMERICAN EMPLOYEES PRESENTLY ATTACHED USIS ASMARA. ONLY TWO LOCAL EMPLOYEES PRESENT AT TIME OF ATTACK. NO RPT NO INJURIES INCURRED. DAMAGE TO INTERIOR OF LIBRARY CONFINED TO FRONT DOORS, SIDE WINDOWS, BOOKS, BOOKCASES, SOFAS, TWO LIGHT FIXTURES, AND FLOOR. DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT \$300 - 400. SAME NIGHT, ASMARA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TARGET OF BOMBING. ACCORDING TO MAJOR HAGOS, ASMARA POLICE SUPERINTENDENT, DAMAGE MINOR. AIRPORT CLOSED TEMPORARILY BUT REOPENED AS OF THIS WRITING.

4. PERSONNEL SECURITY.

TO DATE NO, RPT NO DIRECT ACTION TAKEN AGAINST US PERSONNEL BY MILITARY OR INSURGENT FORCES. FOLLOWING MEASURES HAVE BEEN INSTITUTED TO INSURE SECURITY OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL: CONGEN HAS ADVISED ALL AMCITS TO REMAIN INDOORS AFTER SUNDOWN. ADDITIONAL POLICE PROTECTION FOR ALL USG INSTALLATIONS REQUESTED JANUARY 9, 1975 FROM ASMARA POLICE. "SPECIAL GUARD" FOR USIS ASSURED BY MAJOR HAGOS. PRIOR TO BOMBING, USIS PROTECTED BY "ROVING" POLICE PATROLS. SECURITY MEETING HELD 9 JAN 75 WITH ENTIRE CONGEN STAFF

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ADDIS 00346 101453Z

REGARDING PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN. TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS INITIATED BY CONGEN MONTH AGO REMAIN IN FORCE, NO CHANGE: TRAVEL RESTRICTED TO CITY LIMITS OF ASMARA WITH EXCEPTION TO ROAD TRIPS TO MASSAWA IN CONVOY ARRANGEMENT. ANY OTHER TRAVEL MUST BE APPROVED BY CONGEN.

5. INSTALLATION SECURITY.

THE AMCONGEN COMPOUND, IN FORM OF A TRIANGLE, IS SURROUNDED BY

6-12 FT STONE WALLS. TWO (2) OF SEVEN (7) ENTRANCES ARE USED ON DAILY BASIS, THE MAIN PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE AND A REAR VEHICULAR ENTRANCE. THE OTHER FIVE (5) ARE KEPT SECURED. AN ARMED CONSULATE GUARD MANS THE MAIN ENTRANCE AT ALL TIMES; RSO HAS RECOMMENDED THAT PSO PLACE ANOTHER ARMED GUARD PERMANENTLY AT THE REAR VEHICULAR GATE AS WELL, WHICH HAS BEEN MANNED TO DATE ONLY BY UNARMED WATCHMAN. AT THIRD ARMED GUARD PATROLS ENTIRE COMPOUND DAY AND NIGHT AND COVERS SEVEN (7) DETEX CLOCK STATIONS. MARINE SECURITY GUARDS MAN ONE (1) POST WITHIN THE CONSULATE BUILDING TWENTY-FOUR (24) HOURS A DAY. WHEN THE CONSUL GENERAL IS IN RESIDENCE, AND WHEN SITUATION WARRANTS, MARINE GUARDS MAN A SECOND POST (SLEEPING) WITHIN THE CONSUL GENERAL'S RESIDENCE. TWO SIDES OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL COMPOUND ARE BORDERED BY CITY STREETS, THE THIRD SIDE BY FORMER KAGNEW STATION PROPERTY WHICH IS NOW OCCUPIED BY ETHIOPIAN NAVY HEADQUARTERS. ASMARA POLICE PATROL THE OUTER PERIMETER OF THE COMPOUND. IN PAST THESE PATROLS HAVE BEEN UNRELIABLE, BUT DUE TO RECENT PRESSURE APPLIED BY CONGEN RELIABILITY HAS INCREASED. ALL CLASSIFIED HOLDINGS PRESENTLY BEING REDUCED TO MINIMUM. TWO (2) TOP SECRET DOCUMENTS BEING SCREENED FOR DESTRUCTION. C&R EXPECTS TO HAVE APPROX. SIXTEEN (16) CU. FT. WHEN REDUCTION COMPLETED. POST HAS ONE (1) MODEL II AIR FED INCINERATOR AND FIVE (5) SODIUM NITRATE DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION DRUMS.

6. VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT.

AS IS CASE WITH MOST OVERSEAS DIPLOMATIC POSTS, AMCONGEN, ASMARA WOULD BE VULNERABLE TO DETERMINED ASSAULT BY TERRORISTS/ INSURGENTS. COMPOUND WALLS COULD BE SURMOUNTED IN SEVERAL AREAS AND ARMED CONGEN LOCAL GUARDS WOULD BE LIMITED DETERRANT DUE TO SIZE OF GUARD FORCE AND QUESTIONABLY LOYALTY IN TIME OF CRISIS. CONSULATE BUILDING WITHIN COMPOUND, COULD BE SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED FOR LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME DEPENDING UPON TYPE AND DEGREE OF ASSAULT DIRECTED AGAINST IT. TIME OF DAY AND EXTENT OF

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ADDIS 00346 101453Z

WARNING ALSO MAJOR FACTORS DUE TO NECESSITY OF MARINE GUARD DETACHMENT TO RESPOND FROM OTHER PART OF TOWN. IN FINAL ANALYSIS, CONGEN MUST BE DEPENDENT UPON LOCAL POLICE/MILITARY SUPPORT IN EVENT OF MOB OR TERRORIST ACTION. EXTENT OF AND TIMELINESS OF POLICE/MILITARY SUPPORT PROVIDED WOULD PROBABLY DEPEND UPON: (1) CURRENT US-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS; AND (2) DEGREE OF COMMITMENT OF AVAILABLE ASMARA POLICE/MILITARY FORCES TO QUELLING OTHER LOCAL DISTURBANCES.

WYMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ADDIS00346
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750010-0955
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750164/aaaacdsh.tel
Line Count: 163
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SY
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY SITUATION ASSESSMENT: ASMARA FOR A/SY/FO
TAGS: ASEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006